

Application number 09/620,308
Amendment dated March 29, 2005
Reply to office action mailed October 29, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After entry of this amendment, claims 2-19 and 22-25 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 20, and 21 have been cancelled. New claims 26-28 have been added.

Claims 18 and 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 18 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form. Claim 18 has further been amended for clarity. Claim 23 depends on claim 22 and has thus not been rewritten. Claims 2-9 previously depended on claim 1 and now depend on rewritten claim 18. Claims 2 and 3 have further been amended to correct typographical oversights. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 -9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated over Kannan et al., United States patent number 5,432,045 (Kannan) in view of Snow United States patent number 6,546,434. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Naradone et al. United States patent number 5,265,053 (Naradone). Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Naradone in view of Kannan. Reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of these claims in light of the included amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 10-17, 19, 24, and 25 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

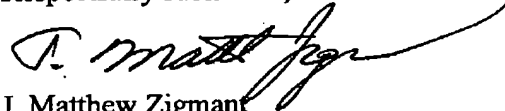
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-273-4182.

Respectfully submitted,



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